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Lizzy and That Wizard Of Ours — A Modern Fairytale ¹

Steve West

Once upon a time there was a shining white city on a hill. It was ruled over by a humbug Wizard whom, without any evidence, proclaimed himself the wisest, smartest, least prejudiced, overall greatest individual who ever lived.

Meanwhile, in distant Wyoming, an unpredicted tornado lifted and twirled our heroine, Lizzy, from her bucolic home and deposited her, clinging to her dog, Harley, onto the far off land of Florida, the home of the Wizard.

Little Lizzy was immediately homesick and wanted to return to Wyoming, but she would need the help of the all-powerful Wizard whom, she was told, held the exclusive power to send her back home to her beloved farm.

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The girl alighted on the estate of Mar-a-Lago barely missing a direct hit on a local witch who didn't care about the whole thing.

There, Lizzie met a jolly band of Munchies who were very short with her. However, they gave her a lollypop and a pair of ruby red slippers and informed her that the Wizard could be found in the faraway land of Washington. She would need to follow the I-95 road to find him.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, July 2022, page 4.

Lizzy embarked on a perilous journey fraught with dangerous adventures. On the way she befriended a brainless scarecrow named Gohmert, a lion with no courage named Graham, and a rusty old tin man with squeaky joints named Grassley. They each wanted something from the great man in Washington and thus became fellow travelers.

The four traveling companions, plus Harley, encountered many hair-raising escapades on their trek. These were reported in the Washington Post and New York Times. At long last the motley crew arrived at the fabled shining white city.

It wasn't easy to get an audience with the Wizard but he finally agreed to see each of them separately. Through smoke and mirrors the ruler presented himself in different aspects to each supplicant.

Finally it was Lizzy's turn to be bullied and debased by the Great One. Appearing as a ball of fire, he frightened poor Harley so badly the dog tore down the screen that the Wizard hid his real self behind. When the screen fell all who had eyes could see that the "Greatest Ever" was exposed as nothing but a 76-year-old corpulent windbag who terrorized and manipulated people to be afraid of his trumped-up power.

Standing naked before the world, he doubled down and threatened and punished Lizzy out of his frantic desperation. But the Wyoming Girl stood firm and exposed him as the "Wizard Who Had No Clothes" – but that's another story.

Beyond remorse or shame the naked Wizard blustered and boasted his loudest. Many in the kingdom still had their vision obscured by his FOXy acolytes who told them not to believe their own lying eyes.

When one of his biggest supporters literally melted away, the former Wizard left the Shining White City in disgrace. He flew his self-fueled hot air ballon back to Mar-a-Lago leaving Lizzy and Harley seemingly helplessly stranded.

But Lizzy had truth, integrity, and courage on her side. She discovered that she alone had the power to return to Wyoming.

After saving the Munchies and squaring things up in Washington she simply clicked her ruby heels and wished herself home to face her future with self-respect.